

# WARMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



## Medical Officer's Report for 1903.

WARMINSTER, JANUARY 24, 1904.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.

Another period has arrived for me to present to you my Annual Report as to the health and sanitary condition of the district.

### DEATH RATE.

From the tabular forms accompanying this report, it will be seen that the deaths of 91 persons were registered in the district. I cannot ascertain that any resident of the district died out of, nor has any non-resident died in the district, consequently no correction is necessary to the number given above, which gives a death rate of 14·6 per 1000, a rate I consider quite satisfactory.

The ages of death ranged from 15 minutes to 90 years, and the deaths of persons over 80 years of age numbered 17. With regard to seasons, there were 27 deaths in the first quarter, 25 in the second, 15 in the third, and 24 in the last. The deaths of young children under one year of age numbered 10. One death occurred from Scarlet Fever.

### BIRTH RATE.

The births numbered 116, equal to a birth rate of 18·6 per 1000.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

I will now refer to the prevalence of infectious diseases during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.—Only one case of this disease was notified to me.

SCARLET FEVER.—This disease has been very prevalent in some parts of the district, but the cases were generally of a very mild type. Forty-two cases were reported to me, viz. : fourteen at the Codfords, thirteen at Corsley, seven at Corton, and one each at Crockerton, Sutton Parva, Chitterne, Corton, and Tytherington. The School at Codford St. Peter was closed for the summer holiday a

week earlier than usual on account of the prevalence of this disease.

No cases of Enteric Fever occurred, but two cases of Puerperal Fever and seven cases of Erysipelas were notified to me.

## **WATER SUPPLY.**

The Water Supply has been too abundant, and I do not see any likelihood of there being a scarcity of water in any part of the district for some years. Operations were commenced for obtaining a supply of water for Upton Scudamore, but the work was suspended owing to the quantity of water in the well, the work will be resumed when practicable, at present I have no complaints of scarcity of water in the village, and wells that have had little or no water for some years are now in full use.

The condition of the cottages in the different villages continues as reported in former reports. No new cottages have to my knowledge been erected in the district during the past year, but the present supply is sufficient for the decreasing population, there are a number of old and unsatisfactory cottages in most of the villages, but particularly in Imber, Chitterne, and Sherrington, in the latter village, many of the older cottages have been put in repair. The condition of the cottages and surroundings in the parishes of Norton Bavant and Stockton is not so satisfactory as it was a few years ago, but you must take into consideration the situation of both these villages which is not favourable for such unseasonable weather as we have had during the past year. There are a number of cottages at the entrance to the village of Stockton of the most antiquated type, with stone floors, and bedrooms almost in the roof, but roomy withal, and no doubt quite as comfortable as those of more modern construction, but they ought to be put into a better state of repair. This village abounds with dip wells of some depth, but it is also provided with a water supply from a reservoir which is fed by a wind engine from a deep well near.

## **INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.**

The bakehouses and slaughterhouses have been regularly inspected. There are practically only three slaughterhouses in the district, viz. : at Horningsham, Heytesbury, and Codford St. Peter. The bakehouses are in a satisfactory condition. I have reported on an underground bakehouse at Sutton Veny, which I unhesitatingly recommend the Council to license.

With the exception of a few blacksmith's shops, there are only two workshops in the district, but in addition there are a few flour mills mostly worked by water power, and employing very few hands, there are a few tenements in which dressmaking is carried on in a very small way, and glove making is also undertaken in a few of the villages nearer Westbury for a firm of glove makers in that town.

Negotiations are pending between the District and Urban Councils of Warminster, for a joint Small-pox Hospital, but the difficulty is in obtaining a site, there is no doubt that the most suitable situation would be somewhere near the road leading from Sutton Veny to Crockerton, and the Committee were actually in treaty for a site in that locality, but the negotiations unfortunately fell through.

I hope the regulations, for the closing of schools during an epidemic, will be more systematic than they have been at various times during the past year, if through some cause the attendance of scholars was below the average, the manager or clergyman sometimes <sup>applied to me</sup> contrary to my advice, took upon themselves the closing of the schools, and afterwards ~~to myself~~ or the Sanitary Authority for a certificate for such closing.

Regular inspection of the district has been carried out in conjunction with the Sanitary Officer, and the dairies and bakehouses have received special attention. I had the pleasure a short time back of inspecting the dairy and cowsheds of Mr. Gay, of Stockton, and I cannot speak too highly of the lofty well ventilated cowsheds, or of the model well kept dairy

No part of the district is supplied with public sewers, and the sewage disposal is that common in most agricultural districts.

The statistical tables required by the Local Government Board will be found attached to this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

**FREDERICK I. FLOWER,**

*Medical Officer of Health to the  
Warminster Rural District Council.*



WARMINSTER

# Rural District Council.

Medical Officer's

# REPORT

For 1903.